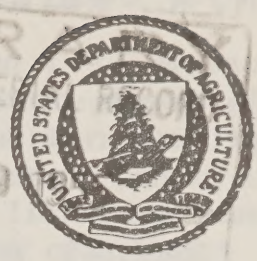
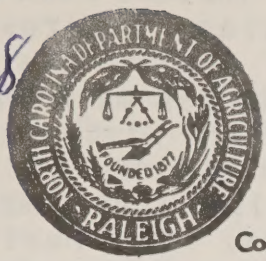


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Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 191

RALEIGH, N. C.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1955

## N. C. PRICES

### INDEX UNCHANGED

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets remained unchanged from July 15 to August 15. The August index of 299 compares with an index of 288 a year ago and an index of 296 on August 15, 1953. The All Crops index was down 1 point from 317 to 316 due to lower prices received for soybeans, peanuts, cottonseed, corn, rye, and sorghum grains. This decline was offset to some extent by an in-

(Continued on Page 2)

## CATTLE NUMBERS, BEEF

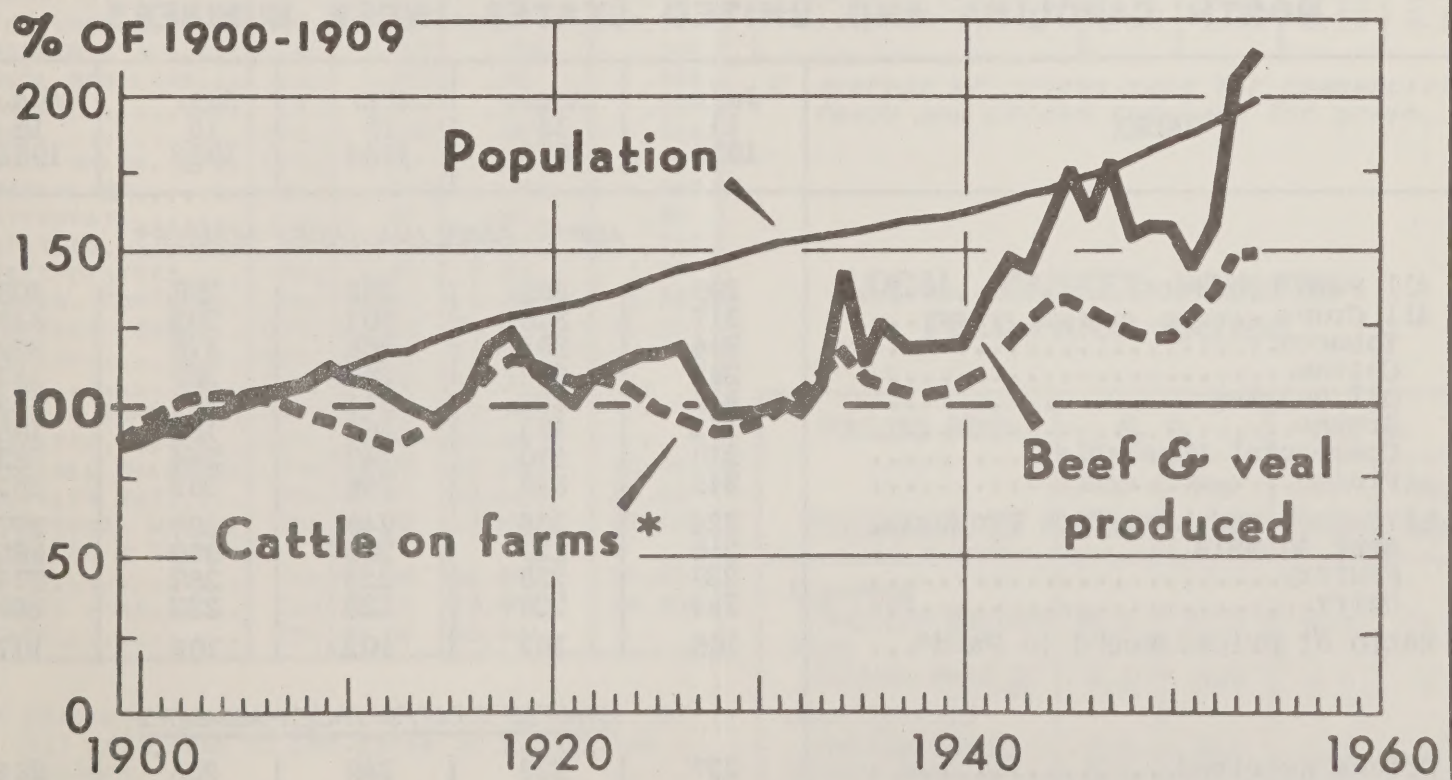
### PRODUCTION AND POPULATION

Beef and veal output has been at record high since 1953. It has increased faster over time than cattle inventories, because cattle of beef type have become a larger proportion of the total; cattle are fed better; calf crops are larger; death rates are reduced; more are slaughtered as cattle rather than calves; and slaughter weights are heavier.

Beef output is high also in re-

(Continued on Page 2)

# CATTLE NUMBERS, BEEF PRODUCTION, AND POPULATION



\* CATTLE AND CALVES ON FARMS JAN. 1



## N. C. PRICES (Continued)

crease of 1 point in the livestock and livestock products index due to higher prices received for veal calves, all chickens, commercial broilers, eggs, whole-sale and retail milk.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers increased 1 point above July 15 and 5 points above August 15, 1954.

## U. S. PRICES RECEIVED AND PARITY INDEX DOWN

The Index of Prices Received by farmers declined 2 percent (4 points) during the month ending in mid-August. At 233 percent of its 1910-14 average, the index was 6 percent below a year earlier. Lower prices for hogs, peaches, beef cattle, tomatoes, corn and wheat were leading contributors to the decline during the past month. Higher prices for eggs, milk, cotton and strawberries were partially offsetting. The Livestock and Livestock Products Index held steady during the past month at 237 while the Crop Index declined 4 percent to 228. These indexes were 5 percent and 8 percent, respectively, below a year earlier.

The Parity Index (Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates) dropped nearly 1 percent (2 points) to 279 on August 15. Prices paid for both living and for production goods declined, with food, feed and feeder livestock making the biggest decreases. The Parity Index was nearly 1 percent lower than a year earlier.

As a result of the declines recorded for both prices received for farm products and prices paid by farmers for goods and services, the Parity Ratio held unchanged from the July ratio of 84. This was 5 points lower than the revised ratio for August 1954.

## BEEF PRODUCTION AND POPULATION (Continued)

lation to population. Consumption per person was a record in 1954, and is equally high this year.

Cattle numbers and beef output are currently about stable at their record levels, and few changes are likely in 1956.

## NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

| INDEX   | July<br>15<br>1955 | Aug.<br>15<br>1955 | Aug.<br>15<br>1954 | Aug.<br>15<br>1953 | Aug.<br>15<br>1952 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS</i>           |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| All Farm Products.....                        | 299                | 299                | 288                | 296                | 308                |
| All Crops.....                                | 317                | 316                | 301                | 303                | 317                |
| Tobacco.....                                  | 394                | 395                | 368                | 376                | 369                |
| Cotton.....                                   | 283                | 283                | 281                | 269                | 331                |
| Oil Bearing.....                              | 336                | 324                | 314                | 301                | 323                |
| Grains.....                                   | 172                | 171                | 181                | 182                | 196                |
| Commercial Vegetables.....                    | 200                | 210                | 247                | 244                | 383                |
| Fruits.....                                   | 348                | 348                | 256                | 253                | 261                |
| Livestock and Livestock Products.             | 234                | 235                | 240                | 267                | 277                |
| Meat Animals.....                             | 256                | 239                | 288                | 310                | 332                |
| Poultry.....                                  | 229                | 238                | 223                | 267                | 271                |
| Dairy.....                                    | 224                | 229                | 225                | 232                | 239                |
| Ratio of Prices Rec'd to Paid*...             | 106                | 107                | 102                | 106                | 107                |
| <i>UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS</i>            |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Prices Received.....                          | 237                | 233                | 249                | 255                | 294                |
| Prices Paid, Int., Taxes &<br>Wage Rates..... | 281                | 279                | 281                | 279                | 288                |
| Parity Ratio.....                             | 84                 | 84                 | 89                 | 91                 | 102                |

\* Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.



# MOST HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS DOWN MIXED DAIRY FEEDS UP

## Egg Feed Price Ratio Up

Average prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most high protein feeds declined during the month ended August 15, 1955. All mixed dairy feeds were costing the farmers more or were unchanged from the July 15 level. Middlings, scratch grains and poultry ration were below the July 15 price. All other grain by-products and poultry feeds remained at the same level.

Lower feed and higher egg prices were responsible for the increase in the egg feed-price ratio.

## FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

| FEED PER<br><br>HUNDREDWEIGHT | N. C.      |            | U. S.      |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                               | JULY       | AUG.       | JULY       | AUG.       |
|                               | 15<br>1955 | 15<br>1955 | 15<br>1955 | 15<br>1955 |
| <u>DOLLARS</u>                |            |            |            |            |
| Mixed Dairy Feed              |            |            |            |            |
| Under 29% Protein             |            |            |            |            |
| All.....                      | 3.90       | 3.95       | 3.75       | 3.69       |
| 16% Protein.....              | 3.75       | 3.80       | 3.68       | 3.63       |
| 18% Protein.....              | 3.80       | 3.85       | 3.76       | 3.67       |
| 20% Protein.....              | 4.15       | 4.15       | 3.93       | 3.90       |
| 24% Protein.....              | 4.20       | 4.25       | 4.15       | 4.09       |
| 29% & Over.....               | 4.75       | 4.75       | 4.42       | 4.38       |
| High Protein Feeds            |            |            |            |            |
| Linseed Meal.....             | -          | -          | 4.42       | 4.39       |
| Soybean Meal.....             | 4.40       | 4.30       | 4.17       | 4.14       |
| Cottonseed Meal..             | 3.90       | 3.80       | 4.06       | 4.01       |
| Meat Scrap.....               | 5.00       | 5.00       | 5.02       | 5.02       |
| Grain By-products             |            |            |            |            |
| Bran.....                     | 3.45       | 3.45       | 2.96       | 2.89       |
| Middlings.....                | 3.75       | 3.70       | 3.30       | 3.12       |
| Corn Meal.....                | 4.60       | 4.60       | 3.69       | 3.64       |
| Corn Gluten.....              | -          | -          | 3.39       | 3.36       |
| Poultry Feed                  |            |            |            |            |
| Laying Mash.....              | 4.95       | 4.95       | 4.60       | 4.53       |
| Scratch Grain....             | 4.45       | 4.40       | 4.21       | 4.14       |
| Broiler Growing               |            |            |            |            |
| Mash.....                     | 5.10       | 5.10       | 5.02       | 4.95       |
| Poultry Ration 1/.            | 4.12       | 4.11       | 3.63       | 3.54       |

1/ Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

## LOCAL MARKET POULTRY FEED-PRICE RATIOS

| POULTRY FEED<br><br>PRICE RATIO 1/ | N. C. |      | U. S. |      |
|------------------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
|                                    | July  | Aug. | July  | Aug. |
|                                    | 1955  | 1955 | 1955  | 1955 |
| Egg-Feed<br>(Poultry Ration)       | 10.9  | 11.7 | 9.7   | 11.1 |
| Farm<br>Chicken Feed 2/            | 5.2   | 5.0  | 5.4   | 5.3  |
| Broiler-Feed<br>(Broiler Mash)     | 5.0   | 5.1  | 5.3   | 5.4  |
| Turkey Feed 2/                     | 7.5   | 7.5  | 7.9   | 8.4  |

1/ Pounds of feed equal in value to one dozen eggs, one pound farm chickens, one pound broilers and one pound turkeys.  
2/ Poultry ration.

## PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

| COMMODITY          | UNIT | N. C.   |         | U. S.   |
|--------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|
|                    |      | JULY 15 | AUG. 15 | AUG. 15 |
|                    |      | 1955    | 1955    | 1955    |
| DOLLARS            |      |         |         |         |
| CORN.....          | BU.  | 1.60    | 1.56    | 1.30    |
| WHEAT.....         | BU.  | 1.95    | 1.95    | 1.90    |
| OATS.....          | BU.  | .74     | .78     | .549    |
| BARLEY.....        | BU.  | 1.07    | 1.08    | .884    |
| RYE.....           | BU.  | 1.95    | 1.92    | .845    |
| SORGHUM GRAINS...  | CWT. | 2.50    | 2.40    | 1.77    |
| SOYBEANS.....      | BU.  | 2.35    | 2.20    | 2.20    |
| PEANUTS.....       | LB.  | .139    | .136    | .122    |
| COTTON.....        | LB.  | .342    | .342    | .327    |
| COTTONSEED.....    | TON  | 58.00   | 55.00   | 50.10   |
| WOOL.....          | LB.  | .50     | .49     | .43     |
| HOGS.....          | CWT. | 18.20   | 16.40   | 15.70   |
| BEEF CATTLE.....   | CWT. | 11.90   | 11.70   | 15.70   |
| VEAL CALVES.....   | CWT. | 16.90   | 18.50   | 16.90   |
| SHEEP.....         | CWT. | 4.70    | 4.70    | 5.42    |
| LAMBS.....         | CWT. | 19.30   | 19.20   | 18.50   |
| MILK COWS.....     | HD.  | 94.00   | 93.00   | 147.00  |
| CHICKENS, ALL..... | LB.  | .252    | .255    | .241    |
| COM'L BROILERS...  | LB.  | .255    | .26     | .268    |
| TURKEYS.....       | LB.  | .310    | .310    | .296    |
| EGGS.....          | DOZ. | .450    | .48     | .394    |
| MILK, WHLSE. 1/..  | CWT. | 5.20    | 5.30 2/ | 3.98    |
| RETAIL 3/.....     | QT.  | .212    | .220    | .207    |
| BUTTERFAT.....     | LB.  | .47     | .47     | .56     |
| POTATOES.....      | BU.  | 1.10    | 1.35    | .752    |
| SWEETPOTATOES....  | BU.  | 3.40    | 3.35    | 1.79    |
| APPLES, COM'L....  | BU.  | 2.50    | 2.50    | 2.52    |
| LESPEDEZA SEED...  | CWT. | 22.00   | 22.00   | 17.20   |
| KOREAN.....        | CWT. | 19.00   | 19.00   | -       |
| KOBE.....          | CWT. | 26.00   | 26.00   | -       |
| COM. & TENN.....   | CWT. | 28.00   | 28.00   | -       |
| SERICEA.....       | CWT. | 30.00   | 30.00   | -       |
| HAY, ALL BALED 4/  | TON  | 32.60   | 32.00   | 20.00   |
| ALFALFA HAY.....   | TON  | 40.00   | 40.00   | 20.90   |
| LESPEDEZA HAY...   | TON  | 34.50   | 34.40   | 23.10   |
| SOYBEAN & COWPEA   |      |         |         |         |
| HAY.....           | TON  | 31.00   | 30.00   | 29.60   |
| PEANUT VINE.....   | TON  | 25.00   | 23.00   | 24.30   |
| OTHER.....         | TON  | 31.00   | 30.00   | -       |

1/ Estimated average prices for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Sold by farmers direct to consumers

4/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds including an allowance for minor kinds.



## TOBACCO STOCKS

Leaf tobacco inventories owned by dealers and manufacturers in the United States and Puerto Rico as of July 1, 1955, totaled 4,402 million pounds. This is a record high level of stocks as of July 1 and represents an increase of 318 million pounds compared with a year earlier. Around 50 million pounds from the previous year's crop, consisting principally of Maryland and Puerto Rican tobaccos entered stocks during the April-June quarter.

Stocks as of July 1, 1955, included about 882 million pounds (farm-sales-weight) of tobacco under Government loans. Of this total, flue-cured stocks were 330 million pounds, Burley 437 million, fire-cured 51.5 million, dark air-cured 37.2 million, Maryland 13.0 million, and cigar leaf 13.4 million.

Flue-cured stocks totaled 2,056 million pounds as of July 1, 1955 -- an increase of 141 million pounds over a year earlier. As indicated by changes in stocks, disappearance of flue-cured tobacco during the marketing year just ended (July 1954 - June 1955) declined somewhat, totaling 1,173 million pounds compared with 1,209 million pounds during the preceding year. Domestic consumption declined to about 745 million pounds compared with 778 million, but exports during the past year decreased to about 428 million pounds compared with 431 million the previous year.

Burley tobacco inventories of dealers and manufacturers were at the high level of 1,473 million pounds on July 1, 1955, an increase of 143 million over those of a year earlier and also the highest level on record.

Marketing of the 1954 Maryland crop began in early May and sales prior to July 1 totaled 25.6 million pounds or about 1 million pounds more than was marketed during the corresponding period the previous season. Stocks of Maryland leaf this July 1 totaled 73.8 million pounds, representing an increase of 4.8 million over a year ago.

Stocks of foreign-grown cigarette and smoking tobacco of 172.5 million pounds were up 5.2 million compared with the previous July 1.

Fire-cured tobacco stocks were 152.3 million pounds on July 1, 1955, an increase of 6.1 million pounds compared with a year earlier. Most of the increase was shown in stocks of Type 23

but holdings of Types 21 and 22 also increased slightly. Virginia fire-cured stocks were reported as 28.8 million pounds, Eastern District, Tennessee and Kentucky fire-cured 95.4 million and Western District 28.1 million.

Holdings of dark air-cured leaf showed an increase in stocks from a year earlier, totaling 86.2 million pounds this July 1 compared with 83.1 million a year ago. Dark air-cured stocks consisted of 51.4 million pounds of One Sucker, 29.9 million of Green River and 4.9 million of Virginia sun-cured.

Stocks reported by dealers and manufacturers of all types of domestic cigar leaf including Puerto Rican totaled 366.9 million pounds (farm-sales-weight) as of July 1, 1955 or 13.5 million pounds above the level of a year earlier. The level of stocks of foreign-grown cigar leaf of 17.5 million pounds did not change compared to the previous July 1.

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## N. C. BEE POPULATION DECLINES

Colonies of bees in North Carolina as of July 1 declined five percent from the numbers reported a year earlier. The estimated number on hand this year was 183,000 colonies as compared with 193,000 colonies for 1954.

Several factors were responsible for the loss of bees as reported by keepers from all sections of the State. Hot, dry weater of last summer and fall retarded the growth of nectar producing flowers, and bees entered the winter with light supplies of honey. Early this spring, unusually warm weather greatly accelerated both honey production and brood activity. Bees which survived the late March freeze were faced with an almost 100 percent flower kill, leaving them hard put to supply existing broods. Large numbers of colonies had to be fed artificially to tide them over. The indicated loss of colonies during the winter and spring was estimated at 21 percent of those entering winter. By July 1, most but not all of this loss was made up by new swarms and by purchases of package bees.

Condition of colonies in North Carolina as of July 1 is placed at 83 percent of normal, about average for that time of year, but condition of nectar plants at 68 percent is low. Most producers expect a short crop of

(Continued on Page 5)



## RECORD HIGH CHICK

### PRODUCTION FOR JULY

Commercial hatchery production in North Carolina during July was the largest of record for the month. The number of chicks produced totaled 8, - 467,000 compared with the previous July record of 6,586,000 chicks in 1954 and the 1949-53 July average, 3, - 997,000.

Chick production during the first seven months of 1955 has totaled 58, - 146,000 -- about 16 percent above the total of 50,038,000 produced during the same period last year.

For the United States, also, commercial hatchery production during July was the largest of record for the month. The number of chicks produced totaled 123,597,000 compared with 110,807,000 in July last year, the previous high production for the month, and the 1949-53 average of 84,433,000. Of the 123, - 597,000 chicks hatched 110,156,000 were for broilers and 13,441,000 were for other purposes. The demand for broiler production is strong and above a year earlier.

The August hatch, the greater part of which is for broiler production will be larger than a year ago since the number of eggs in incubators on August 1 was 10 percent more than on August 1 last year.

### POULT OPERATIONS

The number of heavy breed turkey poults hatched in the United States during July totaled 1,945,000 compared with 1,446,000 in July last year, an increase of 35 percent. Production during the first 7 months of the year totaled 49,432,000, compared with 50, - 453,000 during the same months last year, a decrease of 2 percent.

Light breed poults hatched during July totaled 2,205,000, compared with 2,446,000 in July last year, a decrease of 10 percent. Production during the first 7 months of this year totaled 12,339,000, compared with 16,388,000 during the same month last year, a decrease of 25 percent.

The number of heavy breed eggs in incubators on August 1 totaled 733,000 compared with 163,000 on August 1 last year. The number of light breed turkey eggs in incubators on August 1 totaled 2,446,000 about the same number in incubators on August 1 last year.

## BEE POPULATION (Continued)

honey from late flowering plants, but some look for only enough to carry their bees over the coming winter.

### UNITED STATES

A total of 5,233,000 colonies of bees were on hand July 1 in the United States, a 4 percent smaller number than the 5,465,000 colonies reported last year. All regions of the country showed decreases in number of colonies except the East North Central region, which showed no change.

The condition of colonies about July 1 was reported at 86 percent, which is about average for this date. July 1 condition of nectar plants was 79 percent -- slightly below the 1947-51 average. In California cool weather during the spring delayed the development of honey plants but conditions now are reported to be good. In the intermountain States a late spring and a retarded nectar flow indicate a crop below that of last year. For the East North Central region prospects are good in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. In Michigan, prospects are fairly good except in the Thumb area. Prospects are excellent in Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas.

### NUMBER OF MILK COWS

#### ON FARMS IN JUNE 1955

#### DOWN SLIGHTLY

The number of milk cows on North Carolina farms in June 1955 totaled 366,000 -- 3 percent below the number on hand a year earlier but 1 percent above the 1944-53 average of 362,000.

Milk cows on United States farms in June 1955 numbered 22.1 million head -- down about 1.5 percent from June 1954. The current decline in number of milk cows on farms started in early 1954 following 2 years of increase. In June this year there were more milk cows on farms than during the 1950-52 period, but about 14 percent less than the record high of 25.6 million in 1944. A number of factors have contributed to the decline in milk cow numbers during the 12 months ending in June this year. Two

(Continued on Page 7)



## COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER SHOWS DECLINE

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during July amounted to 20,219,000 liveweight pounds. This was a three percent decrease from the kill of July 1954, and was the first time such a decline from the previous year has occurred since April of 1954. Decreases were reported for all species of animals handled. Liveweight slaughter by kinds and percent decline from July of last year was as follows: Cattle, 9,432,000 pounds, 2.4 percent; Calves, 1,069,000 pounds, 3.4 percent; Sheep and Lambs, 9,000 pounds, 50.0 percent; and Hogs, 9,709,000 pounds, 3.5 percent. Total slaughter for July was 12.8 percent under the total of 23,177,000 pounds liveweight reported for the month before.

### UNITED STATES

Production of red meat in commercial slaughter plants totaled 1,813 million pounds in July. Meat output during July was 10 percent less than the 2,011 million pounds produced in June and 3 percent less than the 1,876 pounds produced in July last year. Estimated meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected plants

and other wholesale and retail plants, but excludes farm slaughter.

Commercial meat production from January through July was 13,969 million pounds, 6 percent more than the 13,215 million pounds produced during the corresponding period last year. Comparing the 7 months this year with the corresponding months in 1954, beef production was up 2 percent, pork output was up 13 percent, mutton and lamb was up 5 percent, but veal production was down 3 percent. Output of lard in the 7-month period was 19 percent above a year ago.

Cattle slaughter in July totaled 2,055,900 head, 8 percent less than the 2,240,000 slaughtered in June and 6 percent less than the 2,175,900 slaughtered in July 1954. July beef production totaled 1,045 million pounds, 9 percent less than a month earlier and 3 percent less than July 1954. Slaughter cattle averaged 926 pounds liveweight, 2 pounds lighter than in June but 20 pounds heavier than in July last year.

July pork production totaled 592 million pounds, 12 percent below June this year and 1 percent below July last year. The number of hogs slaughtered during July totaled 4,179,100 head.

### NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER\*

| Species       | JULY                |      |                     |        | JANUARY - JULY      |       |                     |         |
|---------------|---------------------|------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|---------|
|               | Number Slaughtered  |      | Total Liveweight    |        | Number Slaughtered  |       | Total Liveweight    |         |
|               | 1954                | 1955 | 1954                | 1955   | 1954                | 1955  | 1954                | 1955    |
|               | <i>Thous. Head</i>  |      | <i>Thous. Lbs.</i>  |        | <i>Thous. Head</i>  |       | <i>Thous. Lbs.</i>  |         |
| N. C.         |                     |      |                     |        |                     |       |                     |         |
| Cattle        | 12.8                | 12.4 | 9,661               | 9,432  | 79.5                | 88.9  | 61,649              | 68,483  |
| Calves        | 6.1                 | 5.7  | 1,107               | 1,069  | 37.0                | 36.0  | 6,451               | 6,496   |
| Sheep & Lambs | .2                  | .1   | 18                  | 9      | .7                  | .7    | 63                  | 58      |
| Hogs          | 48.0                | 46.0 | 10,060              | 9,709  | 377.0               | 401.0 | 81,187              | 87,829  |
| TOTAL         | 67.1                | 64.2 | 20,846              | 20,219 | 494.2               | 526.6 | 149,350             | 162,866 |
| U. S.         | <i>Million Head</i> |      | <i>Million Lbs.</i> |        | <i>Million Head</i> |       | <i>Million Lbs.</i> |         |
| Cattle        | 2.2                 | 2.1  | 1,971               | 1,903  | 14.1                | 14.4  | 13,120              | 13,427  |
| Calves        | 1.1                 | .9   | 256                 | 220    | 7.1                 | 6.9   | 1,508               | 1,468   |
| Sheep & Lambs | 1.4                 | 1.2  | 124                 | 111    | 9.0                 | 9.3   | 868                 | 905     |
| Hogs          | 4.1                 | 4.2  | 1,059               | 1,045  | 33.7                | 38.9  | 8,269               | 9,426   |
| TOTAL         | 8.8                 | 8.4  | 3,410               | 3,279  | 63.9                | 69.5  | 23,765              | 25,226  |

\* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.



# TURKEY PRODUCTION

## DOWN 7 PERCENT

Reports received from North Carolina turkey producers around August 1, indicate there will be 1,124,000 turkeys of all breeds produced in the State this year. The number raised this year is 7 percent below last year's production of 1,209,000. The production of heavy breeds estimated at 960,000 is 11 percent below 1954 production. Meanwhile light breed production increased about 31 percent during the same period and offset the decline in heavy breeds slightly. The light breed production was estimated to be about 164,000 for 1955.

Farmers in the Nation as a whole are raising 63,066,000 turkeys this year -- 4 percent less than last year. About the same number of heavy breed turkeys are being raised this year as last, while light breeds show a decrease of 15 percent. Light breeds are 26 percent of the total raised this year, compared with 29 percent in 1954.

Heavy breed increases from last year of 9 percent in the West North Central and 2 percent in the West offset decreases of 6 percent in the East North Central, 9 percent in the North Atlantic, and 12 percent in the South Atlantic States. There was no change in the South Central States.

Light breed turkeys raised this year show decreases in all parts of the country. Decreases from last year are

6 percent in the East North Central, 7 percent in the West, 8 percent in the South Atlantic, 20 percent in the South Central, 21 percent in the North Atlantic, and 28 percent in West North Central States,

Last January farmers expressed their intentions to raise about the same number of heavy breed turkeys as in 1954 and 11 percent fewer light breed birds. This followed the record crop of turkeys in 1954 with the lowest August-December turkey prices since 1942. Although feed prices during the January-July 1955 hatching season averaged 4 percent lower than in 1954, the turkey-feed price relationship during this period was the lowest since 1937.

### MILK COWS (Continued)

successive years of drought in the South and some adjacent central sections caused close culling of dairy herds and contributed to the decline in numbers in this area. National butterfat feed price ratios during the year ending this June averaged the lowest since 1936-37 and were 16 percent below the longtime average. This, no doubt, caused some farmers in cream-selling areas of the midwest to reduce their milking herds in favor of other enterprises. Milk-feed price ratios were the lowest in several years, and about 4 percent below average. Recently however milk-feed price ratios have improved to about average levels for the country as a whole.

## TURKEYS RAISED ON FARMS 1955, WITH COMPARISONS

| State<br>and<br>Division | NUMBER RAISED |        |              |        |                  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|--------|------------------|--------|
|                          | Heavy Breeds  |        | Light Breeds |        | Total All Breeds |        |
|                          | 1954          | 1955   | 1954         | 1955   | 1954             | 1955   |
|                          | Thousands     |        | Thousands    |        | Thousands        |        |
| N. C.                    | 1,084         | 960    | 125          | 164    | 1,209            | 1,124  |
| Del.                     | 176           | 104    | 1,101        | 867    | 1,277            | 971    |
| Md.                      | 304           | 232    | 404          | 334    | 708              | 566    |
| Va.                      | 1,881         | 1,843  | 3,282        | 3,423  | 5,163            | 5,266  |
| W. Va.                   | 558           | 454    | 1,129        | 946    | 1,687            | 1,400  |
| S. C.                    | 944           | 835    | 440          | 245    | 1,384            | 1,080  |
| Ga.                      | 362           | 273    | 10           | 6      | 372              | 279    |
| Fla.                     | 154           | 117    | 41           | 31     | 195              | 148    |
| S. Atlantic              | 5,463         | 4,818  | 6,532        | 6,016  | 11,995           | 10,834 |
| U. S.                    | 47,071        | 46,977 | 18,874       | 16,089 | 65,945           | 63,066 |



# FARM REPORT

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 Agricultural Marketing Service  
 Agricultural Estimates Division  
*S. R. Newell, Director*

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## COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

| COMMODITY                       | PRICES RECEIVED<br>BY FARMERS |                    | PARITY OR<br>COMPARABLE<br>PRICES <sup>1/</sup> |                   | AVERAGE PRICES<br>AS PERCENTAGE<br>OF PARITY |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------|--|-------------------|
|                                 | July 15<br>1955               | August 15<br>1955  | July 15<br>1955                                 | August 15<br>1955 | July 15<br>1955                              | August 15<br>1955 |
|                                 | <u>DOLLARS</u>                | <u>DOLLARS</u>     | <u>DOLLARS</u>                                  | <u>DOLLARS</u>    | <u>PERCENT</u>                               | <u>PERCENT</u>    |
| Cotton, Lb.....                 | .3211                         | .3274              | .3522   | .3522             | 91   | 93                |
| Wheat, Bu.....                  | 1.97                          | 1.90               | 2.51  | 2.51              | 78   | 76                |
| Corn, Bu.....                   | 1.40                          | 1.30               | 1.82  | 1.82              | 77   | 71                |
| Oats, Bu.....                   | .598                          | .549               | .857  | .851              | 70   | 65                |
| Barley, Bu.....                 | .955                          | .884               | 1.33  | 1.33              | 72   | 66                |
| Rye, Bu.....                    | .901                          | .845               | 1.67  | 1.66              | 54   | 51                |
| Beef Cattle, Cwt.....           | 16.10                         | 15.70              | 21.20   | 21.10             | 76   | 74                |
| Hogs, Cwt.....                  | 16.70                         | 15.70              | 21.20   | 21.10             | 79   | 74                |
| Lambs, Cwt.....                 | 18.80                         | 18.50              | 23.30   | 23.10             | 81   | 80                |
| Chickens, All, Lb....           | .245                          | .241               | .289  | .287              | 85   | 84                |
| Eggs, Doz.....                  | .352                          | .394               | .461  | .458              | 76 <sup>5/</sup>                             | 80 <sup>5/</sup>  |
| Milk, Whlse. Cwt. <sup>2/</sup> | 3.80 <sup>3/</sup>            | 3.98 <sup>4/</sup> | 4.66  | 4.63              | 87 <sup>5/</sup>                             | 88 <sup>5/</sup>  |

<sup>1/</sup> Effective parity prices as computed currently in months indicated using base period prices and indexes then in effect.

<sup>2/</sup> Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

<sup>3/</sup> Revised.

<sup>4/</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>5/</sup> Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.